

Region 7:

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3aMPWVF"](http://bit.ly/3aMPWVF)]

A federal court approval of an agreement between the EPA and a Quincy, Illinois, company to clean up a contaminated industrial site in Des Moines will pave the way for a major commercial development that could include soccer stadium.

Also in: *Washington Times*, *Ottumwa (IA) Courier*, *Waterloo-Cedar Falls (IA) Courier*, *Quad-City Times*, *Sioux City (IA) Journal*, *WHO Ch. 13 Des Moines*, *Mason City (IA) Globe Gazette*, *Clay Center (IA) Dispatch*, *SW Iowa News*, *Atlantic (IA) News Telegraph*, *Audubon County (IA) Advocate Journal*, *Muscatine (IA) Journal*, *Alton (IL) Telegraph*

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3jGm2X8"](http://bit.ly/3jGm2X8)]

Herculaneum, Missouri, is a former industrial town. Since the lead smelter closed in 2013, the town has been cleaning up century-old contamination under guidance of the EPA. While the transition away from its past has been stark, residents there say they feel confident in local leadership. Residents of Carbondale, Illinois, say they are struggling to feel heard in their calls for officials to clean up the town's contaminated soil.

[[HYPERLINK "https://bit.ly/3cQypOL"](https://bit.ly/3cQypOL)]

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has posted online the Compliance Assistance Webinar held Aug. 25, 2020, hosted by its Enforcement and Compliance Assurance staff. The webinar includes a discussion about Risk Management Program rule changes that affect agricultural facilities and a session for questions and researched answers.

[[HYPERLINK "https://bit.ly/2LCjZH2"](https://bit.ly/2LCjZH2)]

The EPA is in the process of adding the Lake of the Ozarks to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) 303d list of impaired waters after levels of chlorophyll-a were found in the water in 2017 that exceed the EPA's impairment threshold. The Lake's chlorophyll-a levels were below the EPA's impairment threshold in 2016 and 2018. But before an official decision is made, the EPA is seeking out public comment.

[[HYPERLINK "https://bit.ly/3aJoHep"](https://bit.ly/3aJoHep)]

I'm an independent Missouri farmer and livestock producer, and JBS, the largest meatpacker in the world and a Brazilian corporation is attempting to put a 10,500 head hog operation next to my community and the Poosey Conservation Area in Livingston County, MO.

[[HYPERLINK "https://journalstar.com/news/local/chemicals-dont-just-disappear-persistence-by-researchers-residents-uncovers-pesticide-contamination-at-mead-plant/article_8d31dc75-dcdf-5ed5-b263-c4e158b4a11c.html"](https://journalstar.com/news/local/chemicals-dont-just-disappear-persistence-by-researchers-residents-uncovers-pesticide-contamination-at-mead-plant/article_8d31dc75-dcdf-5ed5-b263-c4e158b4a11c.html)]

Judy Wu-Smart has witnessed bee colonies collapse, but never one after another after another in the same location... As Wu-Smart would discover over time, the dying bees were a proverbial canary in the coal mine, a signal of a larger, slow-moving

environmental calamity unfolding in Saunders County that she and others would trace back to AltEn Ethanol, which began operating in 2015.

[[HYPERLINK "https://bit.ly/36XaSlq"](https://bit.ly/36XaSlq)]

An Ethanol Plant in Mead was ordered Thursday to immediately stop the discharge of wastewater from the plant, amid environmental concerns. The owner of the facility, AltEn, LLC “is likely to cause and may have already caused pollution to the air, waters, and land of the state”, according to the order from the Department of Environment and Energy.

[[HYPERLINK "https://bit.ly/36TqVa5"](https://bit.ly/36TqVa5)]

During the pandemic, hunting and fishing licenses in Iowa have seen big increases. That’s why the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has brought down a team this week to provide care to the Crow Creek Wildlife Area.

[[HYPERLINK "https://bit.ly/3rM3JCP"](https://bit.ly/3rM3JCP)]

On Thursday, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy issued an emergency order to AltEn, the operator of the plant, to immediately cease discharges into its wastewater lagoons, saying that the company was “likely to cause and may have already caused” pollution of the air, land and water.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3jyHP31"](http://bit.ly/3jyHP31)]

US Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Joni Ernst (R-IA) reintroduced bipartisan legislation to create a renewable fuel infrastructure grant program and streamline regulatory requirements to help fuel retailers sell higher blends of ethanol.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3tGjT2e"](http://bit.ly/3tGjT2e)]

A pair of Midwest senators on Monday reintroduced their bill to create an infrastructure grant program for renewable fuels and eliminate some labeling requirements from EPA on E15 labeling.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3jA33gY"](http://bit.ly/3jA33gY)]

U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley says he plans to work with Democratic agriculture secretary nominee Tom Vilsack and President Joe Biden on bipartisan farm programs that could help curb climate change.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3aQU5aT"](http://bit.ly/3aQU5aT)]

An ethanol plant near Mead, the subject of complaints about foul odors and health concerns for the past two years, has shut down operations in compliance with an emergency state order issued Thursday.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3jzPXQy"](http://bit.ly/3jzPXQy)]

The ethanol plant AltEn, LLC near Mead shut down at 4 p.m. on Monday, according to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE).

[[HYPERLINK "https://bit.ly/3aQCYGh"](https://bit.ly/3aQCYGh)]

After years of fighting they have finally gotten the order to shut down. In the village of Mead, an ethanol plant was producing toxic byproducts and community members said it is causing health problems across the community.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/2OIk7LT"](http://bit.ly/2OIk7LT)]

An ethanol plant near Mead that uses pesticide-treated seed corn complied with an order to shut down its operations, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy said Tuesday.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3a7gxNR"](http://bit.ly/3a7gxNR)]

On Oct. 27, 2020, the EPA approved registrations for two dicamba products, XtendiMax with VaporGrip Technology and Engenia Herbicide, and extended the registration of Tavium Plus VaporGrip Technology. All three registrations include new control measures.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/2Z51tKw"](http://bit.ly/2Z51tKw)]

Biofuels have become commonplace in cars and trucks across Iowa and the United States, but concerns are growing among some farmers and politicians from agricultural states that the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) will be set to the wayside under the Biden administration.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3tKFUwQ"](http://bit.ly/3tKFUwQ)]

The experience in Iowa and Missouri shows how drafting an energy plan can help shape a state's energy direction, even if policymakers don't always follow it.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3rE6XYP"](http://bit.ly/3rE6XYP)]

Citing what it says is mounting public support, a group of environmental, legislative and farm leaders called Tuesday for a moratorium on new confined animal feeding operations, saying the large-scale livestock-raising facilities pollute Iowa's water and air and harm rural communities.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/37ihuRV"](http://bit.ly/37ihuRV)]

Advocates for a moratorium on factory farms warned that time is running out for Iowa, but conceded it's unlikely the Republican-controlled Iowa Legislature will approve their proposal.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3qeHvJi"](http://bit.ly/3qeHvJi)]

Staff at Montauk won second place in the Show Me Challenge back in December with their new recycling program.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3jBMPni"](http://bit.ly/3jBMPni)]

Southern 7 Health Department (S7HD) reported that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released findings showing significant decreases in testing of blood lead levels in young children during COVID-19.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3a4vINI"](http://bit.ly/3a4vINI)]

U.S. Farmers & Ranchers in Action (USFRA) today issued a new report¹ that analyzes the state of soil health technology and identifies opportunities to find new sources of

capital to scale-up the adoption of climate-smart agriculture on farms and ranches across the U.S.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3a58b9p"](http://bit.ly/3a58b9p)]

The Forest City School Board on Feb. 8 unanimously approved entering into a contract agreement with ISG and Consulting Engineers Group (CEG) to design and plan a future solar generation project on undeveloped school grounds behind its baseball and football fields.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3p2fMde"](http://bit.ly/3p2fMde)]

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Great Bend) and several Stafford County farmer/rancher landowners responded last week, to a January 16, 2021 lawsuit filed by Audubon of Kansas regarding water rights for Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3aOz9S8"](http://bit.ly/3aOz9S8)]

Edwards, Ellis, Russell and Stafford counties sit at the bullseye of a major water issue. A wildlife refuge needs water for its migrating birds, farmers need water to manage their crops, industry needs the commodity to increase capacity and local municipalities, Hays and Russell, need water for their citizens.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/373tKFG"](http://bit.ly/373tKFG)]

The Ashland City Council its lending support to an effort to force an ethanol plant in Mead to clean up its mess.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3jGCma5"](http://bit.ly/3jGCma5)] – **2/10/21** - Elevated levels of chloride have been consistently documented in at least 11 metro area stream test sites, according to a new report from the Polk County Conservation Board.